2002. Import of these products attract Basic Customs duty @ 35% Surchage @ 3.5% and Special Additional Duty @ 4% Marble slabs and Tiles manufactured with the aid of power attract Additional Duty of Customs @ 30 Rs. Per sq. metre. For other products in this heading Additional Duty of Customs is Nil.

Additional Duty of Customs is charged equivalent to the Excise duty chargeable on similar products manufactured in India. Thus as can be seen above, import duty applicable on marble products and marble stones in the same and provides equal protection to the marble stone and marble product manufacturers in the country

Long Term Partnership With Nigeria

4448. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is fact that India is seriously thinking to build a long term partnership with Nigeria;

(b) whether Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON) is looking for a lucrative contract in that country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the other areas where India can gain in trade and commerce with Nigeria?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Sir, India & Nigeria are already long term partners in trade, investment and economic cooperation and India is interested in maintaining & strengthening this partnership.

(b) & (c) At present IRCON does not have any business in Nigeria. However, Nigerian railways have long term plans for modernisation and expansion of their railway network, though no specific tenders have been issued by the Nigerian authorities as yet. IRCON would be interested in participating intenders to secure business in Nigeria.

(d) The other areas where India can benefit from trade and commerce with Nigeria includes exports of cotton yarn, fabrics, madeups & readymade garments, drugs and pharmaceuticals, engineering goods and agricultural products. India can also benefit from participation in Rural Telecommunication projects in Nigeria, export of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) to Nigeria,

participation in the power Projects of Nigeria, Cooperation in the field of dairy development, cooperation in the field of Agriculture, cooperation in the field of upstream and downstream projects in the oil sector and participation in Nigeria's privatisation plan in steel sector.

Tobacco Crop Holiday

4449. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have decided to declare tobacco crop holiday all over the country for the next season *i.e.* 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the alternate crops suggested to the tobacco farmers and the assistance proposed to be given in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export of Fruit and Vegetables

†4450. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is fact that fruits and vegetables are also being exported from the country for the last several years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have taken a decision to extend some incentives during the current year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) yes, Sir.

(b) Government has not taken any decision on extending some fresh incentives during the current year;

(c) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.